

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE



What is MSAR?

MSAR is a database of pre-credentialed health care professionals who have agreed to volunteer their services during a large scale emergency. By registering with MSAR, you can be part of an alert system and respond, when activated, to a significant disaster or public health emergency.

Why do we need MSAR?

Recent experience with large scale disasters has consistently shown that an effective response requires that volunteers be pre-credentialed and deployed through a coordinated effort. Well meaning but un-affiliated volunteers who unexpectedly present to disaster sites are often unable to be assigned. With limited time and resources to process volunteers, often only those with known credentials are permitted access to the disaster response.

How will MSAR Work?

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) will register and pre-credential interested volunteers. This information will become part of the MSAR statewide, secure database.

MSAR may only be activated by the Commissioner of the MDPH or his or her designee. Upon activation, an alert message will be sent to all MSAR members, or a limited pool of members, depending on the size, type, location, and specific needs of the incident.

How Does MSAR Collaborate with Medical Reserve Corps and other local volunteer groups?

MSAR works to ensure that locally based resources are available in the event of a declared public health emergency. MSAR volunteers are also encouraged to register with local organizations to assist in smaller, community based events which do not initiate an MSAR activation.



Where Can I Get More Information about MSAR?

Email msar@dph.state.ma.us, or click on Volunteer in a Disaster, then Disaster Relief at www.mass.gov/connectandserve. If you work in a hospital, your Hospital Disaster Coordinator can provide you with information.

